

means for detecting medium protection data which are specific to each of  
5 one or more predetermined data portions within said main data and are also  
conveyed by said data medium;

means for detecting protection position information which specifies  
respective positions of said predetermined data portions within said main data as  
positions at which to apply said reproduction protection, said protection position  
10 information also being conveyed by said data medium;

means for generating apparatus protection data which are specific to said  
reproduction apparatus;

means for defining a protection level based on said medium protection data  
and said apparatus protection data in combination; and

15 means for executing reproduction of said main data in accordance with said  
protection level and said protection position information.

19 (Three Times Amended). A reproduction protection method providing  
reproduction protection, for operating on main data which are conveyed by a data  
medium, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting medium protection data which are specific to each of one or more  
5 predetermined data portions within said main data and are also conveyed by said  
data medium;

detecting protection position information which specifies respective  
positions of said predetermined data portions within said main data as positions at

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which to apply said reproduction protection, said protection position information

10 also being conveyed by said data medium;

generating apparatus protection data which are specific to a reproduction apparatus operating on said main data;

defining a protection level based on said medium protection data and said apparatus protection data in combination; and

15 executing reproduction of said main data in accordance with said protection level and said protection position information.

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20 (Three Times Amended). A data medium for transferring main data to a reproduction apparatus, to reproduce said main data by said reproduction apparatus, characterized in that:

5 said data medium further transfers medium protection data which are specific to each of one or more predetermined data portions within said main data and protection position information which specifies respective positions of said predetermined data portions within said main data as positions at which to apply said reproduction protection;

10 said reproduction apparatus generates apparatus protection data which are specific to said reproduction apparatus;

said medium protection data and said apparatus protection data in combination specify a degree of restriction on said reproduction of the main data by said reproduction apparatus, and

said reproduction of the main data is executed in accordance with said  
15 degree of restriction, specified by said medium protection data transferred by said  
medium and said apparatus protection data, and in accordance with said protection  
position information transferred by said medium.

21 (Three Times Amended). A decoding apparatus providing decoding  
protection, for operating on information which is transferred by a medium and  
which comprises main data to be decoded and protection data, the apparatus  
comprising:

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Cont'd* 5 means for detecting said protection data, which are specific to each of one or  
more predetermined data portions within said main data and which are also  
transferred by said medium;

means for detecting protection position information which specifies  
respective positions of said predetermined data portions within said main data as  
10 positions at which to apply said decoding protection, said protection position  
information also being transferred by said medium;

means for generating apparatus protection data which are specific to said  
decoding apparatus;

means for defining a protection level based on said protection data and said  
15 apparatus protection data, in combination; and

means for executing decoding of said main data in accordance with said  
protection level and said protection position information.

22 (Three Times Amended). A decoding protection method providing decoding protection in a decoding apparatus, for operating on information which is transferred by a medium and which comprises main data to be decoded and protection data, the method comprising the steps of:

5 detecting said protection data, which are specific to each of one or more predetermined data portions within said main data and which are also transferred by said medium;

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concl.* detecting protection position information which specifies respective positions of said predetermined data portions within said main data as positions at  
10 which to apply said decoding protection, said protection position information also being transferred by said medium;

generating apparatus protection data which are specific to said decoding apparatus;

15 defining a protection level based on said protection data and said apparatus protection data, in combination; and

executing decoding of said main data in accordance with said protection level and said protection position information.

***Marked Up Copy of Rewritten Claims***

18 (Three Times Amended). A reproduction apparatus providing reproduction protection, for operating on main data which are conveyed by a data medium, the apparatus comprising:

means for detecting medium protection data which are specific to each of  
5 one or more predetermined data portions within said main data and are also conveyed by said data medium;

means for detecting protection position information which specifies [a position] respective positions of said predetermined data portions within said main data as positions at which to apply said reproduction protection, said protection  
10 position information also being conveyed by said data medium;

means for generating apparatus protection data which are specific to said reproduction apparatus;

means for defining a protection level based on said medium protection data and said apparatus protection data in combination; and

15 means for executing reproduction of said main data in accordance with said protection level and said protection position information.

19 (Three Times Amended). A reproduction protection method providing reproduction protection, for operating on main data which are conveyed by a data medium, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting medium protection data which are specific to each of one or more  
5 predetermined data portions within said main data and are also conveyed by said  
data medium;

detecting protection position information which specifies [a position]  
respective positions of said predetermined data portions within said main data as  
positions at which to apply said reproduction protection, said protection position  
10 information also being conveyed by said data medium;

generating apparatus protection data which are specific to a reproduction  
apparatus operating on said main data;

defining a protection level based on said medium protection data and said  
apparatus protection data in combination; and

15 executing reproduction of said main data in accordance with said  
protection level and said protection position information.

20 (Three Times Amended). A data medium for transferring main data to a  
reproduction apparatus, to reproduce said main data by said reproduction  
apparatus, characterized in that:

said data medium further transfers medium protection data which are  
5 specific to each of one or more predetermined data portions within said main data and  
protection position information which specifies [a position] respective positions of  
said predetermined data portions within said main data as positions at which to  
apply said reproduction protection [is to be applied];

said reproduction apparatus generates apparatus protection data which are  
10 specific to said reproduction apparatus;

said medium protection data and said apparatus protection data in  
combination specify a degree of restriction on said reproduction of the main data  
by said reproduction apparatus, and

said reproduction of the main data is executed in accordance with said  
15 degree of restriction, specified by said medium protection data [and apparatus  
protection data] transferred by said medium and said apparatus protection data,  
and in accordance with said protection position information transferred by said  
medium.

21 (Three Times Amended). A decoding apparatus providing decoding  
protection, for operating on information which is transferred [through] by a  
medium and which comprises main data [which are] to be decoded and protection  
data, the apparatus comprising:

5 means for detecting said protection data, which are specific to each of one or  
more predetermined data portions within said main data and which are also  
transferred by said medium;

means for detecting protection position information which specifies [a  
position] respective positions of said predetermined data portions within said main  
10 data as positions at which to apply said decoding protection, said protection  
position information also being transferred by said medium;

means for generating apparatus protection data which are specific to said decoding apparatus;

means for defining a protection level based on said protection data and said  
15 apparatus protection data, in combination; and

means for executing decoding of said main data in accordance with said protection level and said protection position information.

22 (Three Times Amended). A decoding protection method providing decoding protection in a decoding apparatus, for operating on information which is transferred [through] by a medium and which comprises main data [which are] to be decoded and protection data, the method comprising the steps of:

5 detecting said protection data, which are specific to each of one or more predetermined data portions within said main data and which are also transferred by said medium;

detecting protection position information which specifies [a position] respective positions of said predetermined data portions within said main data as  
10 positions at which to apply said decoding protection [is to be applied], said protection position information also being transferred by said medium;

generating apparatus protection data which are specific to said decoding apparatus;

defining a protection level based on said protection data and said apparatus  
15 protection data, in combination; and

executing decoding of said main data in accordance with said protection level and said protection position information.

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38 (New). The reproduction apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said predetermined data portions represents a predetermined sequence of one or more frames of said video signal.

F<sup>2</sup> 39 (New). The reproduction apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said predetermined data portions represents one or more predetermined regions within each of a sequence of one or more predetermined sequential frames of said video signal.

40 (New). The reproduction protection method according to claim 19, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said predetermined data portions represents a predetermined sequence of one or more frames of said video signal.

41 (New). The reproduction protection method according to claim 19, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said predetermined data portions represents one or more predetermined regions within each of a sequence of one or more predetermined sequential frames of said video signal.

sub G'<sup>2</sup> 42 (New). The data medium according to claim 20, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said predetermined data portions represents a predetermined sequence of one or more frames of said video signal.

43 (New). The data medium according to claim 20, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said predetermined data portions represents

one or more predetermined regions within each of a sequence of one or more predetermined sequential frames of said video signal.

44 (New). The decoding apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said predetermined data portions represents a predetermined sequence of one or more frames of said video signal.

F 2 45 (New). The decoding apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said predetermined data portions represents one or more predetermined regions within each of a sequence of one or more predetermined sequential frames of said video signal.

46 (New). The decoding protection method according to claim 22, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said predetermined data portions represents a predetermined sequence of one or more frames of said video signal.

47 (New). The decoding protection method according to claim 22, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said predetermined data portions represents one or more predetermined regions within each of a sequence of one or more predetermined sequential frames of said video signal.

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